



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

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| Host University | University College Dublin (UCD) |
| Semester & Year of Exchange | Semester 1, 2019 |
| Otago degree(s) | LLB, BA |
| Major(s) | Economics |

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

| Course title | Language of instruction | Otago equivalent | Otago credit value |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ECON30150 International Money and Banking | English | | |
| ECON30160 International Trade Economics | English | ECON302 International Trade | |
| Econ30190 Public Economics: Government Spending, Taxation and Public Choice | English | ECON308 Public Economics | |
| IRST30150 Ireland Uncovered | English | | |
| LAW30360 Consumer Law | English | | 15 |
| LAW37510 Sports Law | English | | 15 |
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Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed all the papers I took at UCD. Ireland Uncovered was really interesting – I enjoyed learning about Irish history and culture.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

The teaching style was very similar to Otago (except they didn't have any tutorials), but the workload for the papers were a bit less than at Otago but taking 6 papers made it seem pretty similar to taking 5 at Otago.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I stayed in Belgrove on campus at UCD. Most of the accommodation on campus was made up of 5 bedroom apartments.

Pros:

- On campus
- Power / wifi included
- Bed / desk / duvet provided
- Directly opposite the main lecture theatres / library building

Cons:

- 25min bus from the city
- Quite far from supermarkets (but Tesco delivers to your door!)

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

- Accommodation was about \$7000 for the whole semester, which was pretty similar to what people paid for flats (but included power and wifi). This was paid upfront, so we didn't have to worry about weekly payments.
- Food was quite expensive in Dublin (€3.50 for an Americano, €8ish for a small pizza from Pizza Hut, €8 for a pint of Guinness) but it was manageable. Tesco and Lidl were pretty good for grocery shopping!
- Insurance: my insurance was through STA Travel and about \$800 for comprehensive travel insurance.
- Flights: About \$2,000 return from Europe (STA was really helpful) and RyanAir had really good deals for traveling around Europe! Also signing up for the International Society was great because they had a discount code for free checked in luggage for 8 trips with RyanAir.

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

I went to my bank and got a Cash Passport – definitely recommend it! It worked really well because most European currencies were on it. It takes about 3 days for a transfer of money to go through, so a bit of forward planning needed. I also took my debit card with me for countries where I couldn't use my Cash Passport (Morocco, Hungary, Switzerland etc).

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

I didn't have to apply for a visa before I went, but I had to go online and make an appointment to get a Residence Permit to stay in Ireland. The process was a bit of a pain as it was very difficult to actually get an appointment, but UCD arranged an appointment for me, which was great. It involved going into town to have an interview / fingerprints taken and then within a week my Residence Permit was mailed to me.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

I joined the UCD International Society, which I recommend as they have good deals for exchange students such as weekend / mid-semester trips. UCD had a lot of societies / extra-curriculars to get involved with! Res Life had weekly events such as yoga / pilates / 5-a-side.

What was the university/ city like?

UCD was great! The campus was very big, but still quite manageable. Dublin is a great city – lots of beautiful old buildings with lots of character!

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

- Temple Bar (and the Temple Bar area)
- General Post Office – you can still see bullet holes in the pillars outside!
- Guinness Store House
- Galway – definitely recommend going for a weekend!
- Dicey's (haha)

Any tips for future students?

Make the most of it – Dublin is great!

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

I absolutely loved my exchange experience! It was quite daunting to get on a plane to a city I've never been where I know absolutely no one, but all of those worries were gone once I touched down. The Irish are very warm and friendly people with great humour! I absolutely loved Dublin's city centre – the buildings were beautiful and Grafton Street always had street performers. RyanAir made traveling very easy – I went to 18 countries in the 5 months that I was overseas! The weekend trip I did to Galway was one of the highlights, as Ireland has some beautiful sights on the way there. I'd recommend Dublin, or just going on exchange in general, to anyone!





